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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

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Telephone Communications

1. The telephone communications system in Poland was, far from satisfactory and its development had not kept pace with increased needs. This situation was caused principally by the highly centralized system of governmental administration, which controlled every sphere of life in the country. Telephone installations were controlled by the Ministry of Post and Telegraph. They were inadequate for the ever increasing traffic which went through daily, and simultaneously, between all ministries, government and Party offices, police and militia headquarters and the lower echelons. Traffic was especially heavy between 0800 and 1500 hours.
2. Difficulties encountered in the telephone communications system stemmed from the following factors:
- a. The installations, telephone exchanges, and telephone lines were generally old and inadequate. The equipment was of poor quality. Pre World War II units, some of them worn out or damaged during the war, were not exchanged in proper time and new units were not accurately constructed. The diverse equipment used increased difficulties.
 - b. There was a shortage of equipment and spare parts, sometimes critical. The production of switchboards and components was too slow and could not satisfy the demand. Poor production was caused by a shortage of bunched cables and amplifiers, in addition to the necessary auxiliary equipment. The telephone components

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produced in Poland were of poor quality. For example, microphones became defective after a short time because of the invasion of moisture. A proper process for production of good carbon grain or microphone coal had not been developed. Many telecommunications lines operated without amplifiers and this affected the sound. The production of such amplifiers was in the initial stage.

- c. There was a lack of experienced telephone communications specialists in the Ministry of Post and Telegraph as well as properly trained technical personnel on all levels.
 - d. The maintenance was inadequate and careless. Necessary repairs could not be made because the lines and switchboards were needed and therefore constantly in operation.
3. The Warsaw telephone system was inadequate for the needs of all the government offices and agencies. There were too few telephone exchanges. The new exchange for 10,000 numbers was faulty from the beginning and readjusting was carried out in 1953 for about six months. Old telephone cables damaged during World War II were still in use and the tempo of exchange was too slow.
4. All big towns and industrial centers were connected by cables. Connections for telephone telecommunications within Poland operated as follows
- Warsaw - Katowice. Traffic between these two cities was too heavy for existing lines. There were too few amplifiers.
- Warsaw - Krakow, via Katowice. There were too few amplifiers. Sound was very poor.
- Warsaw - Wroclaw. Traffic capacity was not adequate. In addition to existing cables, a new one was under construction.
- Warsaw - Poznan. In addition to the existing cable, a new single cable was under construction.
- Warsaw - Bydgoszcz. A new single cable was under construction in addition to the existing cable.
- Warsaw - Radom. The existing cable connection was adequate for the traffic.
- Warsaw - Szczecin via Poznan and Gdansk. There were too few amplifiers.
- Poznan - Zielona Gora. The single cable connecting these two towns was defective in parts.
- In Upper Silesia the traffic was so heavy the Ministry of Power was unable to rent channels necessary for the electric power grid communications.
- International telephone communications from Warsaw on the whole were good. Special amplifiers were installed on those lines and specially selected personnel were employed at the international exchange in Warsaw.
5. Plans for the construction of multiplex telephony were in the initial stage. The design came from Russia in 1952. The first telephone equipment of this type, System 1 plus 1, will probably be put into production about 1955.

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6. The Ministry of Power rented many telecommunications channels from the Ministry of Post and Telegraph. The Ministry of Power was given second priority in renting telecommunication channels, the Ministry of National Defense first. According to plan, a part of the rented channels were to be returned to the Ministry of Post and Telegraph after construction of carrier telephony on high tension lines for telecommunications in the electric power system.

Radio Communications

7. Except for the Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry of Navigation radio was not used as a means of communication by civilian ministries.
8. The Ministry of Railroads carried out the first radio link experiments. The experiments involved communications between locomotives and main railroad stations. The first equipment of this type was constructed by the Telecommunications Institute in Warsaw (Instytut Łączności).
9. A request for 20 units of radio link equipment had been made by the Ministry of Power to be used for communications between repair and maintenance brigades on high tension lines and the district bases.
10. Plans probably called for the use of radio communications in the future and certainly in case of war by the civilian ministries. In May 1953 a conference, attended by representatives of all ministries, was held at the Polish Radio (Polskie Radio) for the following purposes:
 - a. To ascertain the needs of the ministries and the plans for radio telecommunication which had been made by them.
 - b. To work out plans for future allocation of frequencies to be used by civilian ministries.

Up to July 1953 no decisions had been made on this matter.

The Ministry of Telecommunication (Ministerstwo Łączności)

11. In the beginning of 1953 a new ministry, the Ministry of Telecommunications was in the making. A plan for its organization had been worked out by the Ministry of Post and Telegraph and sent to the Ministry of Power for comments by the State Commission for Economic Planning. The plan, in the form of proposed legislation, set forth the duties and responsibilities of the new Ministry. It stated, among other things, that:
 - a. The Ministry of Telecommunications would control the entire system of telecommunications in Poland.
 - b. The use of radio communications would not be permitted without the permission of the Ministry of Telecommunications and Polish Radio;
 - c. The carrier telephony system on high tension lines would be controlled by the Ministry of Power, but only for telecommunications in the electric power system.

The Ministry of Power strongly criticized the plan and demanded in a written reply to the State Commission for Economic Planning that it should have the right to use stable and portable radio transceivers tuned for one frequency only for telecommunications in the electric power network without the express permission of the proposed Ministry of Telecommunications. the Ministries of Railroads and

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Navigation also asked, in their comment on this plan that they be permitted to use radio for their purposes without being controlled by the proposed new ministry.

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